



State Library
of Oregon



Broadband access in libraries

Presentation for the Oregon Broadband Advisory Council
February 27, 2020



State Library
of Oregon

Overview

Status of broadband for public libraries

Role of broadband in public libraries



State Library
of Oregon

Around the country

- The FCC established broadband goals of 100 Mbps for smaller libraries and 1 Gbps for larger libraries; about 35 percent of public libraries have subscribed speeds of 10 Mbps or less
- Price and availability (particularly in rural areas) remain problematic; more than one-third of public libraries (and 41% of rural libraries) cannot offer better broadband because they subscribe to the maximum speed available in their area



State Library
of Oregon

Around the country

34.2%

Libraries have download
connectivity speeds
between 1.6-10Mbps

28.3%

Libraries have download
connectivity speeds greater
than 50Mbps

29.3%

Libraries have download
connectivity speeds
between 10.1-49.9Mbps

8.2%

Libraries have download
connectivity speeds
1.5Mbps or less



Around the country

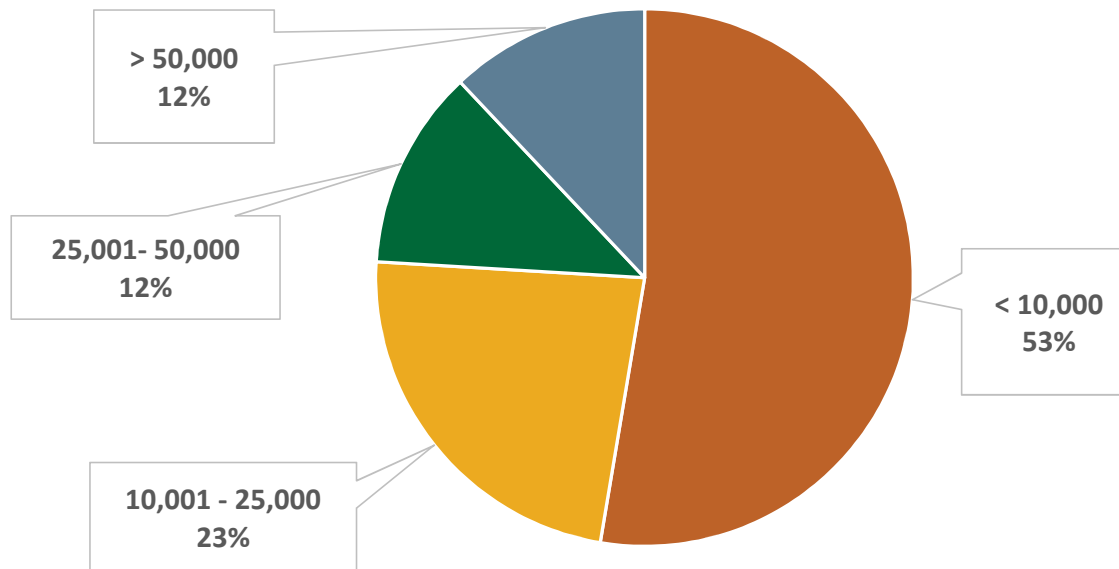
- For example:
 - One Idaho library pays about \$1,300 monthly for wireless 5 Mbps service. The only other option for internet at this library is dial-up.
 - In contrast, a suburban library near Boise pays \$750 per month for 40 Mbps broadband.



State Library
of Oregon

In Oregon

**Just Over Half of all Public Libraries in Oregon
Serve Communities of 10,000 or Less**

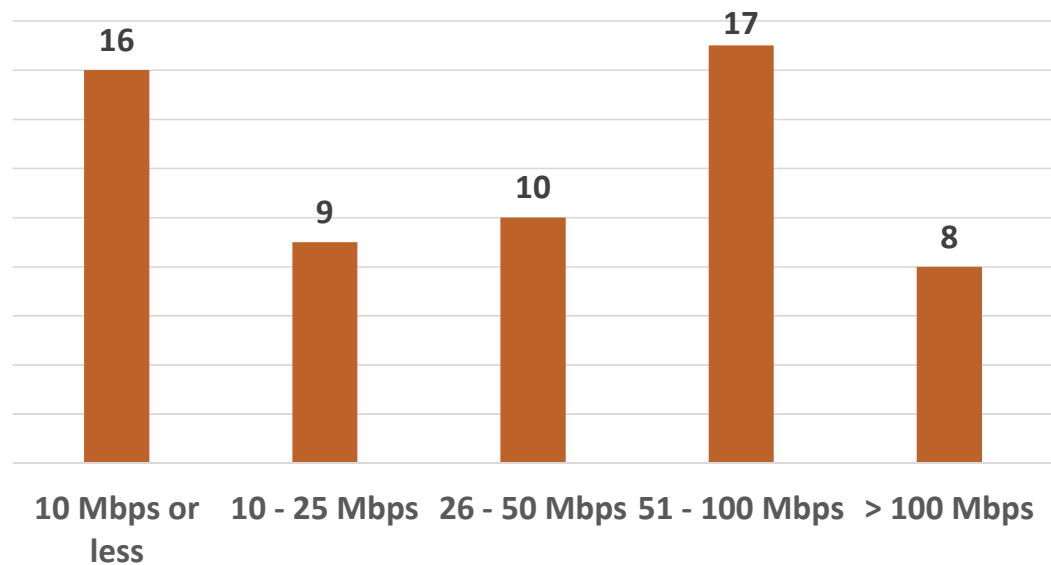




State Library
of Oregon

In Oregon

60 of the 70 public libraries serving communities of 10,000 or less reported their download speeds – average download speed was 55 Mbps





Broadband projects

- National projects:
 - *Toward Gigabit Libraries* includes a Toolkit and Improvement Plan
 - E-rate makes fiber buildout or connections possible through Category One funding
 - General advocacy by the American Libraries Association and the Public Library Association
- Oregon:
 - Rural Broadband Capacity Pilot



State Library
of Oregon

Role of broadband

- Access
 - 65% of local government leaders say libraries play an important or highly important role in advancing digital literacy in their communities
 - Vital services and information online—do schoolwork, file their taxes, research health concerns, and explore the world



Role of broadband

- Access
 - Wi-Fi exponentially increases the library's capacity to serve the public beyond its wired desktops—powering patron's handheld devices and laptops inside the library and on the road with mobile training labs and pop-up library programs, connected through Wi-Fi
 - Loaning hot-spot devices for increased access away from the library



Role of broadband

- Projects for digital literacy
 - Grow with Google – online and in-person training
 - Libraries Lead with Digital Skills for in-person training
 - Funding, marketing, technical guidance, community of practice, and advocacy tools
 - Edge
 - Crook County Library District



State Library
of Oregon

QUESTIONS?